Rec June 20-'71 - Ansd June 30th

My Dear Bishop - Your letter of 14th inst - though so kindly and affectionately written surprised some on first reading - and I hardly knew what answer to return to you - My impulse and desire always is however to meet your wishes in every particular - and I would not have you for a moment - to misunderstand me -

For a month or more previous to Trinity Sunday - I felt that I was in no hurry to have the responsibilities of the priesthood placed upon me - but when my papers had been prepared - by and according to the expressed desire of Mr. Lewis - and sent in for the action of the Standing Committee - and you seemed to approve heartily of my course - I felt it my duty to accept in all faith what God would bestow upon me -

though so unworthy - and the more particularly because I - together with many others - was receiving strength by the united prayers of the Church - and not only so much but the prayers of friends - who were very earnest on my behalf - I received also a kind letter from Bp Armitage wishing me all joy and success in my new degree - In the providence of God I was not ordained and am now willing to any postponement which may relieve you and further - feeling that perhaps such may be for my good and for the good of the church. -

There is one point however which I wish to speak of briefly and that is - Mr Jackson, Rector of St Pauls - leaves his parish

on Thursday next - to be gone during the Summer months - and it is his desire as well as the desire of the people of the parish - that I should take charge during his absence. - Such a step does not necessitate ~~the~~ the giving up my position as Assistant at St. Johns - only entails some extra work - and further Mr. Lewis is wedded to the whole plans and would like me to undertake ~~the work~~ it - but I should be compelled to secure assistance at the celebrations of the Holy Communion throughout the Summer - or else take priests orders - I lay this case before you in all frankness that you may understand

exactly — my position — If it were possible for you to give me orders during the coming month of July — it might be well — and would certainly save me the extra labor of continually seeking help — I leave the whole matter to you however — and shall endeavor to be guided in every respect by your counsel — Whatever it may be — My loyalty in all matters — is dictated — and influenced by the purest love for you personally and for the Ch. —

Affectionately & Sincerely —

St. John's Parish —
Washington D.C.
June 19th 1871

To — The Rt. Rev. W. R. Whittingham

Edward Kinney —